



NORTH DAKOTA 2005-2006 FURBEARER GUIDE

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This guide is provided for informational purposes and is not intended to be a complete listing of regulations. If you desire specific information on regulations and laws, visit our website at discovernd.com/gnf (for season proclamations) or for North Dakota State laws go to www.state.nd.us/lr/cencode/T201.html.

2005-2006 SEASON DETAILS

(Please see general regulations for the furbearer seasons listed on back side. Hunters and trappers should also refer to the North Dakota 2005-2006 Small Game Guide for license fees, sunrise and sunset times, and other information.)

BEAVER HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND UNDERWATER SNARING
Open year-round (officially from Apr. 1 - Mar. 31 of each year)

BEAVER SNARING ON LAND
Opens: November 19 — Closes: May 7
<i>From March 13, 2006 through May 7, 2006 snares must be within 50 feet of water; they must be no greater than 4 inches off the ground and they must have a stop restricting loop size to 12 or less inches in diameter. Snares must possess a snare lock or breakaway device that has been tested to break or disassemble at no more than 350 pounds pull.</i>

Beaver dams may be dismantled when their presence causes property damage.

MINK AND WEASEL TRAPPING
Opens: October 22 — Closes: March 12

MINK AND WEASEL SNARING
Opens: November 19 — Closes: March 12

WEASEL HUNTING
Opens: October 22 — Closes: March 12
<i>Weasel may be hunted statewide with .22 caliber rimfire rifles or pistols, muzzleloaders of .45 caliber or smaller, longbows, and crossbows.</i>

MUSKRAT TRAPPING
Opens: October 22 — Closes: March 12

MUSKRAT SNARING
Opens: November 19 — Closes: March 12

Muskrat huts may be opened for insertion of traps or snares; however, the huts must be restored to their approximate original condition to prevent freeze-up.

In addition, muskrats may be trapped statewide with foothold traps or colony traps using underwater sets that are at least 2 inches under water or trapped with conibear-type traps or snares with no more than 2 inches of the conibear trap or snare above the water surface from March 13, 2006 through May 7, 2006. During this time period, float sets are prohibited, and trapping or snaring on the outside of any muskrat house or structure of any size is prohibited.

**For additional hunting and trapping information
visit our website at discovernd.com/gnf**

MINK HUNTING
Opens: November 19 — Closes: March 12

MUSKRAT HUNTING
Opens: November 19 — Closes: May 7

Mink and muskrat may be hunted statewide with .22 caliber rimfire rifles or pistols, muzzleloaders of .45 caliber or smaller, longbows, and crossbows.

BOBCAT HUNTING OR TRAPPING
Opens: November 5 — Closes: March 12

BOBCAT SNARING
Opens: November 19 — Closes: March 12

Open only in the area south and west of the Missouri River.

The pelt and carcass of each bobcat must be presented to Department personnel for inspection and tagging no later than 14 days after the close of season, or prior to sale or transfer of possession, whichever comes first. Absolutely no bobcat pelt will be tagged until the animal is skinned and presented with the intact carcass. The carcass then becomes the property of the Department. No person, taxidermist, or fur dealer shall possess or purchase an untagged bobcat. When any part of the animal is mounted, if the tag is removed from the pelt, the tag must be securely fastened to the back or bottom of mount.

RED FOX, GRAY FOX, COYOTE, RACCOON AND BADGER HUNTING OR TRAPPING
Open year-round (officially from Apr. 1 - Mar. 31 of each year)

In addition, red fox, gray fox, and coyote may be hunted at any hour, from November 19, 2005, through March 19, 2006. Any person who engages in the hunting of red fox, gray fox, or coyote during the time from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise, must hunt exclusively on foot and use a predator call. The use of a spotlight or any other artificial light is prohibited.

RED FOX, GRAY FOX, COYOTE, RACCOON AND BADGER SNARING
Opens: November 19 — Closes: March 12

MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING (EXPERIMENTAL)
Opens: September 2 — Closes: March 12

Mountain lions may be hunted statewide by residents using legal weapons during regular hunting hours. Use of dogs is allowed. Snares and traps are not allowed. The limit for mountain lions is one animal per hunter per season. There is a quota of 5 mountain lions and once this quota is reached, the season will close immediately. The Department will inform the public of this closure through the media. The quota will include all lions taken by USDA Wildlife Services, the Department, private landowners in defense of livestock, road killed animals, incidental animals taken by traps or snares, and animals taken for human safety issues. This quota also includes lions taken in accordance with tribal regulations on Indian land within the exterior boundaries of the Fort Berthold Reservation. This quota does not include lions taken on other Indian land within the exterior boundaries of a reservation. Any lion taken must be reported to the Department within 12 hours and the entire intact animal must be submitted for analysis. Legally taken animals will be returned to the hunter.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Hunter Education Requirement. Persons born after 1961 must complete a certified hunter education course and present the certificate earned to the license vendor to purchase a hunting license. Certificates from other states or Canada are valid. Exemptions: Persons who hunt only on land they own or operate and persons under 12 years of age (those under 12 may hunt if they have appropriate licenses and are accompanied by parent or guardian).

Minimum Age. Persons under 15 years of age afield with firearms must be accompanied by parent, guardian, or adult authorized by their parent or guardian.

LICENSES

Most hunting licenses are in the form of stamps which must be affixed to the back of a FISHING, HUNTING AND FURBEARER CERTIFICATE. Stamps and licenses must be signed in ink.

Except for residents under 16 years of age, to hunt or trap furbearers, a furbearer license is required. Nonresidents may not take furbearers, except that they may hunt fox and coyote if they possess a furbearer and nongame license. (Exception: Residents of a state that allows North Dakota residents to trap within that state may purchase a nonresident reciprocal trapping license to trap in this state. Nonresidents having this license may not take bobcats or mountain lions).

Hunters and trappers are required to purchase licenses, except any resident, or member of his family permanently residing with him, may hunt small game, trap or snare during the open season without a license upon land owned or leased by him, but otherwise is governed by seasons, limits, and all other regulations.

Residents do not need a license to take unprotected species of wildlife. Nonresidents hunting only unprotected species of wildlife (prairie dogs, rabbits, skunks, gophers) need only a nongame license.

A resident combination license is available which consists of fishing, small game, general game and habitat, and furbearer licenses.

CLOSED OR RESTRICTED AREAS

Wildlife management areas so posted, refuges, sanctuaries, national parks, and historic sites shall be closed to the hunting and furtaking of all species. (Exception: Furtaking shall be permitted at times and on those areas of federally owned refuges designated by the refuge manager.) A permit from the refuge manager is required for those wishing to trap on federal refuges. For additional regulations on federal refuges, contact refuge headquarters.

A permit from the Director is required to take furbearers on those state wildlife management areas and state easement refuges posted closed to hunting.

SNARING

- Snares are permitted on state wildlife management areas and federal waterfowl production areas after the close of the small game seasons (January 8) through March 12, 2006.
- A metal or plastic tag must be attached to each snare. This tag must bear the trapper's name, address and telephone number.
- Relaxing snares are permitted. One stop must be permanently affixed to each snare on land that will prevent the snare from opening to a diameter greater than 12 inches.
- Snares cannot be placed or set in the field prior to the opening date or remain set or placed in the field after the closing date of the snaring season for respective species.
- All snares must be affixed to an immovable object solidly attached to the ground. The use of drags is prohibited.
- Snares cannot be set so the bottom of the loop is higher than 12 inches off the ground; or when the ground is snow covered, more than 12 inches above the bottom of a man's footprint in the snow beneath the snare with the full body weight on the foot.
- Snares must be constructed of galvanized or stainless steel cable of 1/16" diameter or larger (no single strand snares/cable are allowed).
- Snares must possess a snare lock or breakaway device that has been tested to break or disassemble at no more than 350 pounds pull. Following is a list of commercially manufactured and available snares that have been tested and meet the requirements (as manufactured by the company): 1) Hopkin S-hook, 2) Gregerson leg snare, 3) Gregerson neck snare, 4) Kelly (Amberg), 5) Snare Shop ND lock and stop system, 6) Grawe's 12 ga bullet lock snare with release, 7) Sullivan Breakaway S-hook, 8) Snare Shop Breakaway S-hook, 9) Snare Shop Breakaway J-hook, 10) Grawe's "Mini Mag" snare with release.
- Those snares previously tested that have met the requirements, but are no longer commercially available, are still legal to use in the state.
- Individuals who are self-assembling snares from components must assume liability and responsibility for ensuring locks that break or disassemble at 350 pounds or less.

CONIBEAR TYPE TRAPS AND WATER SETS

• STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs)

Year-round:

Conibear type traps greater than 6" inside jaw spread must –

- Be in 4" or more of water; or
- Be recessed at least 7" in a plastic, wood, or metal cubby with a maximum 50 square inch opening; or
- Be recessed at least 10" in a plastic, wood, or metal cubby with a maximum 80 square inch opening.

• ALL OTHER LANDS

From September 1, 2005 through October 23, 2005: Conibear type traps greater than 8" inside jaw spread and all water sets (including foodhold traps) must –

- Be in 4" or more of water; or
- Be used in an upland set and recessed at least 10" in a plastic, wood, or metal cubby with a maximum 80 square inch opening.

From October 24, 2005 through January 1, 2006: Conibear type traps greater than 8" inside jaw spread must –

- Be in 4" or more of water; or
- Be used in an upland set and recessed at least 10" in a plastic, wood, or metal cubby with a maximum 80 square inch opening.

From January 2, 2006 through August 31, 2006:

- No restrictions on the placement of conibear type traps and water sets except for muskrats. See front side for additional trapping requirements for muskrats.

• JAW SPREAD SIZES OF COMMON CONIBEAR TRAPS:

110/220	– 4.5 inches	280	– 8 inches
160	– 6 inches	330	– 10 inches
220	– 7 inches		

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Written permission must be secured from the landowner or operator prior to placing or setting any traps or snares on private land. The owner or operator may determine the length of time permission is granted.
- The season for lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), wolf (*Canis lupus*), swift fox (*Vulpes velox*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), marten (*Martes americana*), otter (*Lutra canadensis*), and fisher (*Martes pennanti*) shall remain closed. Any incidentally captured furbearer for which the season is closed must be immediately reported and turned over to the Department.
- Furbearers may be taken statewide except for bobcat as described on the front of this guide.
- Furbearers may be taken with firearms, archery equipment (including cross bows), dogs, traps, and snares except mink, muskrat, weasel, and mountain lions may be taken only as described on the front of this guide.
- The opening hour on the first day of all furbearer seasons is 1/2 hour before sunrise. After the first day of the season, trapping or snaring is legal at any hour. Hunting hours are from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset except for fox and coyote as listed on front side and for raccoon, which may be taken on foot at any hour with the aid of a flashlight with a power source of not more than 6 volts. A red or amber filter must be placed over the light except when taking a raccoon treed or at bay. Legal weapons for flashlight hunting of raccoon are rifles or handguns firing a rimfire cartridge no larger than .22 caliber long rifle or shotguns no larger than .410 gauge. Rifled slugs are not legal.
- It is illegal to drive off established roads or trails during the deer gun season while attempting to take furbearers with firearms, archery equipment and dogs.
- It is illegal to place traps or snares within 25 feet of any sight exposed bait. A sight exposed bait is defined as any bait, weighing in excess of one pound, composed of animal flesh, fur, hide, entrails, or feathers placed in such a manner that it can be seen by any soaring hawk, owl, or eagle.
- It is illegal to intentionally destroy, molest, disturb or tamper with any trap, or snare, or the set, or with any furbearer restrained therein.
- No live furbearing animal may be taken from the wild or possessed alive by nonresidents. Residents must first have a valid non-traditional livestock license for that purpose issued by the Board of Animal Health.
- Any resident, other than a licensed furbuyer complying with Section 20.1-03-23 of the North Dakota Century Code, who ships or transports hides or furs, shall tag each hide or fur with the name of the person having taken it and the persons furbearer license number.
- Aircraft may not be used to take coyote, fox, or other furbearers, without a special permit.

The Department along with the North Dakota Fur Takers Association recommend the following for upland trapping of furbearers with restraint traps:

- That all traps be visually inspected and all captured animals be removed at no greater than 48 hour intervals.
- The use of offset jaw traps, laminated jaw traps, padded jaw traps, or combinations thereof.
- The use of base-plated, center swivel-mounted chains, and mid-chain swivels.
- That rubber gloves be worn for skinning and handling of all furbearers.